

REMARKS

The office action of February 11, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Luckhof et al.

Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Martins in view of Luckhof et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 7 and added new claim 12. New claim 12 contains the subject matter of original claims 7 and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Luckhof et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a quick-changing device for roll disks. The device of Luckhof et al. requires three different claw units. The presently claimed

invention, on the other hand, has only two claw sets, i.e. inner and outer. Such a construction is not disclosed by Luckhof et al.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Martins was discussed in the last filed amendment and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The Examiner combined Martins with Luckhof et al. in determining that claims 7-11' would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach a device for mounting and demounting a bearing unit of a back-up roll of a roll stand having only two claw sets, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, Martins and Luckhof et al. do not disclose or suggest the configuration of the change-over device with inner claws which are provided for the pin end of the back-up roll, and with outer claws which are provided for the bearing unit. Consequently, the invention not only provides a coupling means, but the different claws and the way in which they are arranged provide an additional division of functions, namely, for pushing the bearing unit onto

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the roll pin, on the one hand, and for pulling the bearing unit from the roll pin, on the other hand.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 11, 2004.

By: *F. Kueffner*

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